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 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8544
 INFO RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 7032
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 C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6139

STATE FOR AF AND AF/E
 AID FOR ADMINISTRATOR
 ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: ET, EAID
 SUBJECT: MOVEMENT OF RELIEF SUPPLIES TO REBEL-HELD AREAS

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. DURING CALL ON FOREIGN AID COORDINATOR BERHANU BAYIH MORNING DECEMBER 19, ARRANGED AT SUGGESTION OF PMGSE, SENATOR MENENY ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVEMENT OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES TO HELP PEOPLE IN REBEL-HELD AREAS. THE SENATOR ASKED IF SUCH A MOVEMENT WOULD BE "RESPECTED" BY THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT.

3. BERHANU BAYIH'S IMMEDIATE RESPONSE WAS "THIS IS UNIMAGINABLE AND COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE." HE ADDED THAT "IF ANYBODY WANTS TO HELP PEOPLE IN ETHIOPIA IT HAS TO BE THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT." MINISTER BERHANU FURTHER CLAIMED THAT THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT IS ABLE TO TRANSPORT FOOD ANYWHERE IT IS NEEDED IN ETHIOPIA. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER TIBEBU CHIMED IN TO ADVISE THAT "THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A REBEL CONTROLLED AREA" IN ETHIOPIA. KORN
 END OF MESSAGE

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State Dept. review completed

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